Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 135172 ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-12 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 L-03 DODE-00 USIA-06 COME-00 TRSE-00 PC-01 SCA-01 PPT-01 SY-05 OPR-02 AID-05 /080 R

DRAFTED BY AF/S: RPERRY;DH APPROVED BY AF:WEDMONDSON AF/S:DKEOGH

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R 102256Z JUN 77 FM SECSTATE WASHDC TO AMEMBASSY GABORONE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, CASC, BC

SUBJECT: BOTSWANAN SECURITY LAWS

REF: GABORONE A-29

1. IN RESPONSE TO REFAIR DEPT PREPARED TO SEND TRAVEL WARNING TO ALL AF AND EUR POSTS. HOWEVER, BEFORE DOING SO DEPT WOULD APPRECIATE ANY ADDITIONAL ASSESSMENT YOU CAN PROVIDE ON HOW BOTSWANA IS LIKELY TO IMPLEMENT NEW LAWS. WOULD EXECUTIVE PARDONS BE LEGALLY POSSIBLE OR POLITICALLY FEASIBLE? WE SUGGEST YOU DISCUSS THIS QUIETLY WITH GOB, SEEKING FURTHER INFORMATION ON THEIR INTENTIONS FOR IMPLEMENTATION. IN PARTICULAR, WILL ANY DISTINCTIONS BE MADE AMONG TOURISTS WHO MAY VIOLATE LAW BY CARRYING SINGLE WEAPON, ARMS TRAFFICKERS, AND MEMBERS OF FOREIGN ARMED FORCES.

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2. TEXT OF TRAVEL WARNING FOLLOWS. QUOTE. THE GOVERN-MENT OF BOTSWANA HAS AMENDED ITS SECURITY LAWS TO PROVIDE MANDATORY MINIMUM SENTENCES FOR TREASON AND THE ILLEGAL IMPORTATION OF FIREARMS. TREASONABLE OFFENSES NOW INCLUDE: THE UNAUTHORIZED WEARING OF THE UNIFORM OF A FOREIGN ARMY AND THE UNAUTHORIZED POSSESSION OF ARMS,

AMMUNITION AND EXPLOSIVES. WHILE THE DEATH SENTENCE MAY BE IMPOSED FOR TREASON, THE MINIMUM SENTENCE IS 15 YEARS IMPRISONMENT. A PERSON CONVICTED FOR ILLEGAL IMPORTATION OF ARMS WILL BE SUBJECT TO A MINIMUM SENTENCE OF FIVE YEARS. THIS LAW SHOULD NOT AFFECT TRAVELERS FOLLOWING NORMAL STANDARDS OF CONDUCT FOR TOURISM OR BUSINESS. UNQUOTE. VANCE

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Message Attributes

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